

"Be proud that you are an American", my father used to say, but "be proud, too, that you are a Greek!"

All four of the Brademas children were deeply conscious of the importance of our Greek background.

Here let me say how pleased I am that my cousin, Anna Bredima, General Counsel for the Union of Greek Shipowners, is here today with her two children, Evangelo and Ersiliana.

Anna, by the way, is a graduate of Pierce College.

Although my mother was not of Greek descent she was, like her father, a teacher—and that fact emphasizes another dimension of his Greek ancestry that my father used to press upon his children—the importance of learning, of knowledge, of education.

A second dimension of the history of Greece that my father and I often discussed was democracy. "We Greeks invented democracy!" my father reminded us, and said that some of us should still practice it.

Accordingly, after graduating from Harvard University and one year of postgraduate study there, I went to England, on a Rhodes Scholarship, to study at Oxford University. At Oxford, I wrote a doctoral dissertation on the anarchist movement in Spain but I like to note that although I studied anarchism, I did not practice it!

For on my return to my hometown in Indiana, I immediately plunged into politics and became a candidate for election to the Congress of the United States. Just old enough—25—under our Constitution to be a candidate, I lost my first race by half a percent. Naturally, I ran again, two years later, but lost a second time. Undaunted, I was first elected, on my third attempt, and then ten times re-elected. So I served as a Member of Congress for 22 years.

In the House of Representatives, I gave particular attention to writing legislation to support schools, colleges and universities; and the students who attend them; to measures to help libraries and museums; and the arts and the humanities, generally.

In my last four years as a Member of Congress, I was the Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, an assignment that brought me every other week, with Speaker of the House of Representatives, "Tip" O'Neill of Massachusetts, and the other Democratic Leaders of the House and Senate to breakfast at the White House with President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale. All Democrats, we talked politics and policy.

It was, of course, while a Member of Congress that I became deeply involved in the issue of Cyprus, a matter that continues to preoccupy me. I worked closely then with my valued friend, also a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and the first Greek-American elected to the United States Senate, Paul S. Sarbanes. And I'm pleased to note that Paul's son, John Sarbanes, now serves in the United States House of Representatives.

As I am the son of a Greek immigrant, I am pleased to call your attention to another son of Greek immigrants, both his father and mother. I speak of Peter C. Peterson, the highly successful and highly respected American business leader and public servant. Peter G. Peterson, co-founder of Blackstone Group and former Secretary of Commerce, has just published a fascinating book, *The Education of an American Dreamer*, which I am pleased to present to President Horner for the College library. Your faculty and students will find the story of this remarkable son of Greek immigrants inspiring. I am confident.

More modestly, I am pleased also to present a book of my own to The American College of Greece, *The Politics of Education*,

in which I describe my experience as a Member of Congress in writing legislation to assist schools, colleges and universities; the students who attend them; and measures to assist libraries and museums.

I move ahead, In 1980, as a result of the landslide victory of Ronald Reagan, I lost my race for reelection to a twelfth term. Shortly thereafter, I was invited to become president of New York University, the largest private, or independent, university in the United States. In 1991 I became president emeritus, my present responsibility, so now I'm only going some twelve hours a day!

If I were to single out one dimension, of my commitment to strengthening New York University, it would be that I gave particular attention to building our programs for the study of other countries and cultures, not only through programs in New York City but centers abroad as well. Much of the responsibility of an American university president focuses on fundraising, both from the Federal government and private sources. So I pressed hard, and, I believe, effectively, to bolster the financial situation of New York University.

I must add just a word about my present initiative, another strongly shaped by my Greek origins, the establishment at NYU of the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress, of Congress as a policy-making institution.

Let me explain that unlike parliamentary institutions in Europe, the Congress of the United States has great power, in addition to that of the President of the United States, to make national policy. But with 100 Senators and 435 Representatives and without the party discipline characteristic of parliamentary systems, it is not easy for even informed Americans to understand Congress. So we are, with the establishment of the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress at New York University, creating an institution that will bring together Senators, Representatives, scholars and citizens to discuss the ways in which our national legislature makes national policy and ways of improving the system.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, from what I have told you, I hope you can see that I have inherited from my Greek father at least two dimensions of the extraordinary contributions of Hellenic civilization to today's complex world: first, respect for learning, for education; and second, respect for politics, for democracy.

So even as I pay tribute to two distinguished persons you are also honoring here today, Andrew Athens, a valued friend of many years and an outstanding leader of the Greek-American community; and Mikis Theodorakis, musician, scholar, public servant, I reiterate how deeply touched I am to receive an honorary degree from The American College of Greece.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLEAN TRUCK PROGRAM

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the economic and environmental benefits the landmark Clean Truck Program has brought to southern California during its first year.

California is home to one of our nation's largest and most vibrant economic hubs: the

ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Unfortunately, the ports are also home to emissions generated by the short-haul transport of goods. The neighborhoods surrounding the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are disproportionately impacted by the air pollution caused by trucks and suffer from associated health problems including emphysema, asthma, and cancer.

Successfully addressing localized air pollution and climate change will require a national strategy and a federal framework to coordinate implementation of air quality goals. Cities, local communities and local government can and should play a role in our national strategy.

As seen by the Clean Truck Program's success, local governments are already making important contributions to federal efforts to improve air quality. On October 1, 2008 the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles implemented a ban on trucks with model years prior to 1989. Today, port officials estimate that approximately 1,500–2,000 "dirty" diesel trucks have been removed from drayage operations. The new trucks that replaced them generate 90 percent fewer emissions than the old dirty diesels.

Beyond cleaning the air the Clean Truck Program has successfully stimulated local economic activity. The program's financial incentives have stimulated \$500 million in private investment. Nationwide, new truck sales are down 60 percent. In contrast, truck dealers near the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles have reported a 33 percent year over year increase in sales due to the financing made available by the Clean Truck Program. These new truck sales include the sale of several liquefied natural gas trucks, which draw upon one of America's greatest energy assets.

Almost 800 trucking companies have embraced the program's financial incentives, resulting in the deployment of more than 5,000 2007 EPA compliant trucks. At the program's current pace, the ports estimate that by January 2010, more than 90 percent of the cargo transit at port terminals will be made by trucks meeting USEPA 2007 heavy duty truck emissions standards. This achievement will allow the ports to meet their 2012 goal of 80 percent emissions reductions from overall drayage operations two years ahead of schedule.

The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles Clean Truck Program has been a tremendous success and has brought economic and environmental benefits to the Area. I congratulate the ports on the first year of an innovative solution, and I optimistically look forward to the results of the program next year.

#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CLINICAL TRIALS THAT FOCUSED ON WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE UNITED STATES

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, people of color, both women and men, have historically been underrepresented in the medical profession, biomedical and biotechnology research, and clinical trials in the United States. As we move toward an era of personalized medicine,